

MICHAEL LYNES

**EMPLOYEE OF THE MONTH
MAY 2008**

On March 31, 2008, I responded to a shoplift call at Valley Fair Mall. The suspect had taken four pairs of jeans without paying for them. He told Officer Lynes he had taken the jeans in a sad attempt to pay for food for his family.

The suspect was arrested but Officer Lynes, with his own hard earned money, bought the suspect a pair of jeans. The suspect said he was homeless and that his wife had been killed by a drunk driver. They had five children and they were all staying at the shelter.

Officer Lynes felt compassion for the suspect and reached out to this person. The suspect was still cited for retail theft but hopefully the story he was telling was not too far from the truth. It is not everyday an officer will empathize with a suspect but Officer Lynes went above and beyond the call of duty.

Submitted by: Anthony Ricci
Police Dept.